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TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1965

Sen. Fulbright And Soft Diplomacy

When the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. J. William Fulbright, proposed in an interview last Sunday, that the United States halt the bombing of North Viet Nam for a few days in order to promote possible negotiations, he performed a great disservice to his country.

There is no doubt that the Arkansas senator is sincere. He is a man of proven integrity. He also is a senator of mistaken views that verge on those of a dogooder, rather than one of extensive foreign relations experience. For years he has favored what might be called the soft policy. When Castro seized Cuba, he ridiculed the idea that Castro was a danger to the United States. He championed the view that Cuba would die on the vine.

Yet look what happened! Who would have dreamed that the Soviets would deliberately succeed in installing numerous missiles on bases in the island, all pointed at the United States 92 miles away? Had it not been for the prompt, decisive action of Pres. Jack Kennedy, the Soviets would have gotten away with it.

Senator Fulbright deplored President Johnson's action in the Dominican Republic, where there was abundant evidence of an attempt by the Communists to seize power. The situation still boils there, due largely to the relatively soft policy that President Johnson favored after his initial firm action.

The Senator's views on Viet Nam are well known. His plan of stopping the

bombing for four days, made earlier this year, did not work. The Chinese and Hanoi scorned the offer. It did not bring on any kind of negotiations.

However, the fact that the Senator has spoken out again, should serve to wake up the Washington administration and the American people, that the fighting should go on without cessation, even if negotiations should be offered. We should not make the mistake we made in Korea, of agreeing to a cease-fire, and then trying to negotiate. We should make ourselves master of the situation, but gladly agree to end the fighting, when the Viet Cong and military forces from North Viet Nam withdraw.

Finally, we should remember that a soft, trusting diplomatic policy has brought us only sad results, when dealing with Communists. We deliberately tried it with the Russians and saw them quickly impose their will on what are now their satellites of Eastern Europe. We tried it with the Russians in the Berlin dispute, but had to abandon it. And so it was with the Chinese in Korea.

Some of these days the Communist forces in Viet Nam are going to propose an armistice, and try to use it to establish a stalemate such as we experienced in Korea. We should have learned from what happened in Korea, that when the matter of negotiations comes up, as it will, we should fight harder than ever, until the negotiators come to an agreement that both sides will respect. Should we be tricked into a cessation of fighting, we will make such an agreement impossible.